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January 2d, 1855.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Joseph Harrison, Jr., dated Jan. 2, 1855, accompanying the donation from him acknowledged this evening.

On leave granted, the Committee appointed at last meeting to prepare a memorial to Congress soliciting aid to Dr. Kane and his companions in their Arctic peril, reported the following memorial, which was adopted.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The Memorial of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, respectfully represents :

That Dr. Kane, a member of the Academy, and his companions, may at this moment be in urgent need of the protecting hand of those in whose power alone it is possible to give material aid.

Knowing well the prudence and perseverance of Dr. Kane, it cannot be doubted that he has taken all the precautions possible for the safety of those who have been placed under his charge in the perilous and benevolent voyage which he has undertaken for the relief of that intrepid traveller Sir John Franklin. But it is now known that Sir John is removed beyond all human alleviation of calamity, and Dr. Kane and his companions, your memorialists believe, now stand in need of that alleviation and support which they so generously volunteered at the risk of their lives, in toiling over dreary wastes, and in braving the rigors of a polar winter, as well as the storms of an Arctic sea.

Your memorialists fear that the cause of the delay of the return of Dr. Kane may arise from one of those accidents so incident to Polar voyages, the crushing and destruction of his vessel by the ice, in which case a *relief expedition* can alone in all probability mitigate his destitution and distress, and save him.

Your memorialists respectfully, but earnestly solicit that the earliest possible succour may be afforded to Dr. Kane and his companions.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to prepare copies of the above, to be signed by the officers of the Society and transmitted to Congress.

On motion of Dr. Rand, the thanks of the Academy were presented to Mr. Joseph Harrison, Jr., of this city, for his valuable donation of portraits of Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell, received this evening.

January 16th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read :

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, dated Dec. 4, 1854 ;

From the Acad. C. L. C. Nat. Curiosorum, dated Breslau, 26th Oct., 1854 ;

From the Genova Natural History Society, dated 7th of November, 1854, and

From the Wurtemberg Verein für vaterländische Naturkund., dated Stuttgart, 21st Nov., 1854, severally acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings and Journal of the Academy.